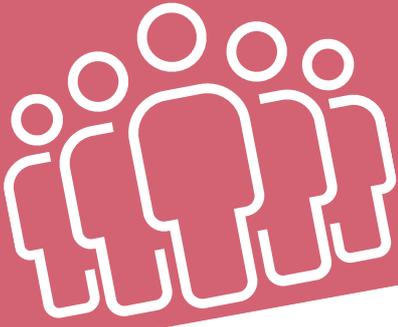


# ALL KIND *to* SAVE



*All Kind*



*All Kind*

ANIMAL INITIATIVE

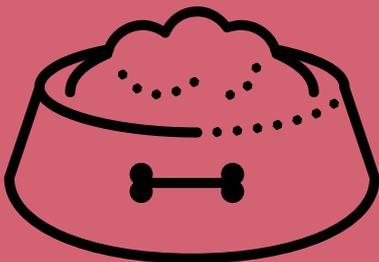
DOG ADOPTION GUIDE

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## *Our Mission*



All Kind is a non-profit organization that seeks to improve animal welfare in the city of Abilene by building a new animal shelter facility, decreasing homeless pet overpopulation through accessible spay/neuter programs, increasing pet retention through expanded foster programming and adoption events, and offering greater education and resources through community outreach.

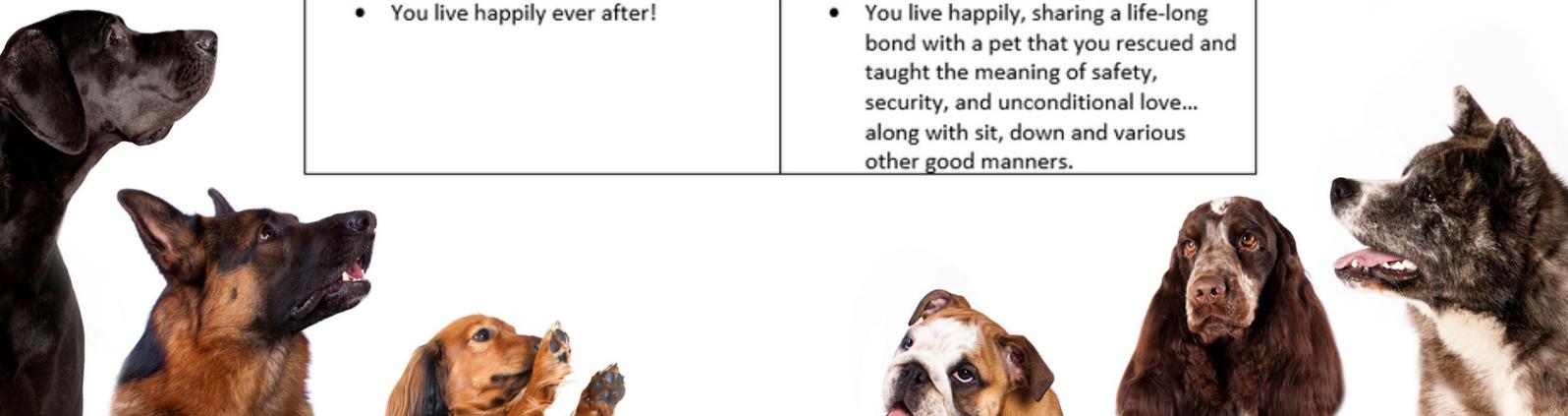
# SO YOU WANT TO ADOPT?

There are millions of homeless pets with one thing in common- they are dreaming of a future where someone special sees their potential and commits to helping them achieve it. They dream of a better tomorrow where they can live the rest of their life in a forever home, sharing a lifelong bond with someone special. Could that special someone be you?

It certainly could be! Adopting a pet is a big decision though and one that should not be taken lightly. So let's dig a little (pun intended) to see if you have what it takes to be a successful pet parent to a dog in need.

There are certainly scenarios where person sees dog, dog sees person, and they run towards one another (dog sits instead of jumping, of course), and they both live happily ever after. More times than not, though just like your relationship with your significant other there is an initial meeting, a period of getting to know one another, a courtship full of ups and downs, an acceptance of flaws, and a commitment to unconditional love followed by happily ever after (as long as both parties commit to keep working on their relationship). We call this Fantasy vs. Reality...

Fantasy	Reality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You find the perfect pet!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You find a pet that could be the perfect fit for you/your family.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Perfect pet runs into your arms- it's so meant to be!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pets may be nervous or scared- that doesn't mean they are incapable of loving you.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Perfect pet covers you in kisses as you pet their soft fur... aww!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The hair and slobber is real! Remember reality? If hair and slobber aren't your thing, don't fret- there is a dog that is the perfect fit for your family- this one just might not be it... and that's okay!</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You take perfect pet home where they know exactly what you expect of them and how to behave- it is a match made in heaven!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pets might have an unknown history or worse, a history of neglect or abuse where they were not taught polite manners or provided ground rules for living in a home with a family that loves them. This is where you come in- dogs have a tremendous capability to learn- you just need to be willing to teach them!</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pet parenting is a piece of cake! Cake that your well-behaved dog wouldn't even think of swiping from the counter!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pet parenting takes work, but it is such a rewarding experience- knowing the difference you are making in a deserving pet's life and watching their love and loyalty grow. BTW, they still love you even if they swipe the cake!</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You live happily ever after!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You live happily, sharing a life-long bond with a pet that you rescued and taught the meaning of safety, security, and unconditional love... along with sit, down and various other good manners.</li></ul>



# KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL ADOPTION

*It's really as easy as 1, 2, 3!*

## 1.

### **Prepare... yourself, your family, and your home**

- *Yourself:* Do you really want to adopt? Is now the right time to adopt? Are you committed to putting in the time needed to train and care for your new dog? Are you able to financially support the needs of your new pet?
- *Your family:* Have you agreed on the “house rules” such as whether your pet will be allowed on the furniture? Who will be responsible for feeding, watering, and walking your new furry friend? Do your children understand how to safely interact with a dog?
- *Your home:* Take the time to puppy-proof your home- even if you are adopting an older dog- until you are comfortable with your new pet's behaviors. Do you have any poisonous plants in your home or yard? Purchase supplies ahead of time to make bringing your new pet home easier.

## 2.

### **Manage expectations**

- We already covered fantasy vs. reality, but do you know about the 3-3-3 Rule?
  - It takes a rescued pet 3 days to decompress while they are getting used to their new unfamiliar surroundings (no matter how much better their circumstances are now, change is scary), new people, new smells, new sights, and new sounds. During this time, some pets may be perfectly content cuddling with you, scarfing down all the treats you offer and might even chase a ball. However, others may not want to eat or drink, they may want to hide or run away from you, they might test boundaries, they may not play with toys... they may not be their true self quite yet. This is completely normal- give them the time and space they need to begin feeling secure enough to be themselves.
  - It takes a rescued pet 3 weeks to figure out their new environment and (with your help) get into a routine. At this point they will feel more comfortable and begin to understand that they are possibly in their forever home, so you may start to see different parts of their personality (both good and not so desired) as they begin to let their guard down. During this time, it is important that you patiently help them understand the house rules, establish a routine (dogs love routine!) and take training slowly as to not further overwhelm them.
  - It takes a rescued pet 3 months to trust you and feel completely comfortable in their new forever home. They should be set in the routine you established for them and have gained a level of confidence based on the sense of security you have provided for them. From here on out, you'll continue building an unbreakable bond with your new best friend!

## 3.

### **Put in the work... and patience... and LOVE**

- Be consistent with the house rules. Nothing causes confusion for your new pet more than allowing them on the couch the first week when the experience is new and then yelling at them for being on the couch the following week when you see hair on the couch. Think through what kind of relationship you want to have with your new dog and consistently teach them cues that allow them to exhibit good house manners. Be patient, research positive reinforcement training techniques, ask for help if needed. There are a lot of resources out there to assist you with the transition into pet parenting a rescued pet. Remember, your dog has boundless potential and deserves to be loved!

# FINDING THE RIGHT PET

It's easy to look at a photo on a website and see an adorable furry face looking back at you or to look into the pleading eyes of the dog in a kennel at the local shelter and think, "That is the dog for me!" It's important to remember, though, no matter how cute a dog is or how guilty you may feel seeing a dog confined at the shelter, the key to a successful adoption is finding the **right pet for your life**.

Here are a few questions to consider:

- ***Do you lead an active or sedentary lifestyle? Do you want a dog to go running or hiking with you or a couch potato to binge watch the latest Netflix series?***
  - A dog with a lot of energy or working breeds may not be a good choice for someone who prefers to play online games, watches a lot of TV or is unable to help the pet work off their energy. A dog needs an outlet for their energy. If they are not provided a way to exert energy, they could develop destructive or undesirable behaviors.
  - An older pet, a smaller dog or a breed that is known to be more inactive would not make an ideal running partner. Race back to the drawing board to find the right pet for you!
- ***Do you have the time and/or financial resources to groom your pet?***
  - Certain breeds require more brushing, bathing and even haircuts than others. If you cannot commit the time to daily brushings or resources to have your pet professionally groomed every 6 – 8 weeks, look for a pet with fewer grooming requirements.
  - Brushing your dog can take place while you are watching your favorite TV show or talking on the phone to a friend- they just need to take place! Remember, this is not just about looking good, it's about feeling good as well! If grooming needs are neglected, your pet could develop painful mats, bacteria that accumulates under the mats, overgrown nails and more!
- ***Do you have children or other pets?***
  - Ask about the background of the pet you choose to see if they are good with children, get along with cats and other dogs or if they will require additional training or a home without children and/or other pets.
  - Do a meet and greet to make certain everyone can coexist in your home. Never force the issue or tell yourself that it will get better with time or once you are home. The best thing you can do for a pet that will not fit into your household is to spread the word to others to help him/her find the right home.
- ***Are you an experienced pet parent or is this your first time choosing to share your life with a dog?***
  - Do your research on the breed, ask the foster parent or shelter questions, and don't take on more than you can handle- no matter how adorable that online photo is! Watch online training videos, read articles, visit a local dog park and ask other pet parents with similar breeds questions.
  - Make an informed, not emotional, decision so that you can set yourself up for success to share an amazing journey with your new pet.

Okay, so you've done your homework, had a meet and greet that gave you all the feels and found the right pet for your life... **CONGRATULATIONS!** This is a very exciting time, so post the pics, call your best friend, jump up and down a few times... now let's get back to it- there is still a lot to do to prepare for your newest family member!

# ALL THE RIGHT STUFF

With so many options to choose from, it can be overwhelming when shopping for a new pet. Have no fear- we're here to help! It's important to remember that there are the basics, as well as additional products to help keep your new furry friend safe and healthy and physically and mentally stimulated. There are also products that may only be applicable for certain pets or situations. Let's take a closer look!



## Pet

Collar and/or Harness  
Pet ID Tag  
Leash  
Food  
Variety of:  
Toys  
Treats  
Chews



## Home

Crate  
Dog Bed  
Food Dish  
Water Dish  
Pet Waste Pick Up Bags  
Stain & Odor Remover  
Pet Gate



## Grooming

Brush  
Toothbrush  
Toothpaste  
Nail Clippers  
Styptic Powder  
Shampoo  
Ear Cleaner



## Health

Flea & Tick  
Preventative  
  
Heartworm  
Preventative  
  
Vaccines



## Misc.

*(based on scenario)*  
Potty Pads  
  
Supplements  
(ex: Hip & Joint)  
  
Seat Belt/Harness for  
Car rides

## WELCOMING HOME YOUR NEW PET



While this is a very exciting time for your new best friend, it is also probably very overwhelming for him/her. Remember the 3-3-3 Rule? Try to keep things very low-key for the first few days- allow them time to explore their new home, do not introduce a lot of new people from outside of the home, begin to establish a routine and house rules, and above all else, love them! (Just be consistent!)

Introducing your new pet to other pets or children should be done slowly. Always be there to supervise and be ready to intervene if necessary. Visit the Resource Center on [petco.com](http://petco.com) for great articles including [How to Socialize Your Dog](#) and [Introducing Cats to New Dogs](#).

## YOU GOT THIS!

If times get ruff, don't give up- we're here to help! Reach out to us... just try not to get frustrated and certainly, don't give up! Everything worth having takes time and work. Focus on getting through the hour, day, week... It will be worth it- you will soon find yourself depending on your dog's companionship just as much as he depends on you. You will help each other through whatever rough patches you both encounter, and your dog will know it has truly found his forever home.

*Continue  
making a  
difference ...*



## DOG ADOPTION GUIDE

# HAPPILY EVER AFTER

By adopting a dog, you have made a tremendous difference in the life of your dog! But did you know that you can make an even bigger difference in the lives of many deserving pets in the Abilene community? Spread the word about adopting, share your story through social media, and consider fostering a pet to save a life. Their happily ever after depends on caring individuals like you!

## RESOURCES



Pet Stores			
Pam's Pets & Fish 3366 N. First St Abilene, TX 79603 (325) 675-6285	Petco 3542 S. Clack St Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 271-6949	Petsmart 3501 Catclaw Dr Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 692-9411	Pet Supplies Plus 3950 S Clack St Abilene, TX 79606



Veterinarians			
Big Country Vet Clinic 2426 Industrial Blvd Abilene, TX 79605 (325) 692-2625	Brookhollow Animal Clinic 2641 Post Oak Rd Abilene, TX 79605 (325) 698-7281	Buffalo Gap Animal Clinic 4522 Buffalo Gap Rd Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 793-1011	Dearing Veterinary Clinic 1133 Buffalo Gap Rd Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 698-3090
Frontier Veterinary Clinic 3401 S Treadaway Blvd Abilene, TX 79602 (325) 698-4900	Judge Ely Animal Hospital 1126 Tracy Lynn Dr Abilene, TX 79601 (325) 672-1666	Key City Veterinary Clinic 318 E S 11 <sup>th</sup> St Abilene, TX 79602 (325) 672-7801	



Pet Grooming			
Big Country Vet Clinic 2426 Industrial Blvd Abilene, TX 79605 (325) 692-2625	Jolly Ranch Pet Resort 352 Foothill Rd Abilene, TX 79602 (325) 669-7278	Petco 3542 S. Clack St Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 271-6949	Petsmart 3501 Catclaw Dr Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 692-9411
Suite Life Pet Resort & Spa 3509 Beltway S Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 704-5460			



Dog Training			
Petco 3542 S. Clack St Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 271-6949	Petsmart 3501 Catclaw Dr Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 692-9411	Suite Life Pet Resort & Spa 3509 Beltway S Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 704-5460	VanBuren K9 Academy 162 County Road 117 Clyde, TX 79510 (325) 660-9142



Pet Boarding			
Diamonds In The Ruff 1101 Palm St Abilene, TX 79602 (325) 695-2931	Jolly Ranch Pet Resort 352 Foothill Rd Abilene, TX 79602 (325) 669-7278	Lad's & Lassie's 2517 Barrow St Abilene, TX 79605 (325) 695-5373	Suite Life Pet Resort & Spa 3509 Beltway S Abilene, TX 79606 (325) 704-5460